

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### HINCHEY AND COLLEAGUES REQUEST MEETING WITH WHITMAN

#### *LETTER TO EPA ADMINISTRATOR QUESTIONS GE MEETINGS*

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) was joined by four of his House colleagues in writing to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman to request a meeting about the plan to remove PCB's from the Hudson River. Citing statements and correspondence of EPA officials and high-level meetings between EPA and General Electric, the letter expresses concerns about the status of the plan and the influence GE might be having on it through the design of performance standards.

"Adding to our concern is the fact that (EPA's) Region 2 (office), which developed EPA's cleanup plan and has years of experience and technical expertise working with the scientific complexities of this site, has apparently not been involved in these discussions," the letter reads. "While we support legitimate performance standards designed to ensure that the clean-up succeeds, we reject the need for their inclusion in the Record of Decision. Performance standards are most appropriately developed as part of the project design phase, with the full consultation of regional project managers."

While the letter is dated October 17, the temporary closure of House office buildings prevented it from being mailed until the middle of last week. It is signed by Hinchey, Rep. Nita Lowey (NY-18), Rep. Michael McNulty (NY-21), Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY-08), and Rep. Frank Pallone (NJ-06).

